

MAINE'S FEVER.

The Revolutionary Agitation Assuming an Ominous Intensity.

SEDITIONARY ORATORY

"It May Cost Much in Tears and Blood!"

CLERICAL APPEALS TO ARMS

Interview with Governor Garcelon on the Situation.

NOT FEARFUL NOR DISMAYED.

Lot M. Morrill Asks for Arbitration by the Supreme Judicial Court.

THE POSITION OF THE REPUBLICANS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

AUGUSTA, Me., Dec. 24, 1879.

There is no use trying to cover up the fact that a revolution in Maine is not only possible but probable. It is talked openly by leading men on both sides, discussed in the republican papers, in the pulpits, in the stores and on the streets. The relative strength of the contestants is canvassed, the number of men and arms that could be brought to the capital debated and attention is directed to the fighting qualities of the men who are expected to enter the service as volunteers.

REVOLUTIONARY MEETINGS.

The meetings held in Dexter and Brewer last night were plainly revolutionary. The chairman of the Dexter meeting said that when the day for the assembling of the Legislature should arrive they would send down to Augusta returns that could not be counted out.

The Rev. Mr. Sargent said that they had as much right to resist the usurpation of their prerogatives as did the people of the South. "I am ready," he said, "to go to Augusta. I am a minister of the Gospel and want to go as chaplain, but I would carry a musket over my shoulder and a revolver in each pocket, if necessary, to organize our Legislature and protect the rights of the people." Later on he said:—"It is time for every man to rise up and prevent this crime, peacefully if we can, but forcibly if we must."

Colonel Jaeger Hutchings followed and said there was nothing left except to go to Augusta, organize the Legislature and sustain it by force if necessary. These utterances were substantially repeated at Dexter. Dexter a light infantry company set in the front seats in the hall and applauded loudly, especially whenever any allusion was made to forcible resistance.

THE PEOPLE AROUSED.

In other parts of the State a similar feeling prevails. The people are excited, their blood is up and a row is imminent, not alone in Augusta but in every town or city in the State. Not the least curious feature of the present trouble is the fact that the ministers are among the most outspoken in favor of a revolution. Yesterday I asked a prominent republican, who is very conservative at present and opposes strongly the tendency to indulge in threats and loud talk, what was the cause of this bloodthirsty feeling in the church. He replied, "Don't you remember the old adage, 'Whose bread I eat his song I sing'?" and, laughing heartily, he left me.

CLERICAL INVOLVEMENT.

The Rev. J. Benson Hamilton, a Methodist divine in Lewiston, spoke in his church about the outrage and told his hearers what he thought to be their political duty. He charged the Governor with fraud, theft, disloyalty, treason and dishonor to his State and to the town of his birth. "What shall we do with the thieves?" he asked, menacing the Governor and the Council. "Honor them or hang them? Honor them? Then we honor the thief, the burglar, the traitor, the assassin. To honor those who have dishonored themselves is putting a premium on vice and dishonesty." "The sun is going down," he said later. "The shadows of evil already begin to darken the skies and will veil the earth. What of the night? You ask. It may be filled with weeping and sorrow. It may cost much in tears and blood. But the sunrise will come. God does not slumber nor sleep."

This is the kind of talk one hears all over the State, but more particularly beyond the Penobscot, where Hannibal Hamlin and Captain Boutelle have the shaping of public sentiment.

A REACTION IN AUGUSTA.

Here in Augusta there is a reaction. The meeting last night has developed a new phase of the situation. It has shown the republicans that if a fight comes there will be men and muscle on the Governor's side as well as on that of Mr. Morrill. The patriotism which has been proclaimed against the members of the Executive Council in their respective homes has induced some of them to spend Christmas in the gloomy precincts of Augusta. Through all the turmoil and excitement, through all the bitter denunciations and all the invectives hurled against the Executive Department, there is one man who seems totally oblivious to all things save his official duties, and that is Governor Garcelon. The Herald correspondent went to pay his respects to him in the afternoon just as the shadows were deepening. In the anteroom sat the police Mark Harden, the executive messenger, who has occupied the same chair since the days of Governor Corbin. He knows everybody in the State, can put his finger on any book you want to consult, and make a visitor feel at home instantly. I waited, the Governor was in. Would I wait a moment? I waited. Mark sat noiselessly through a door leading to the Council Chamber, and presently came back through another marked "Governor's room. Private." I was to go in.

GOVERNOR GARCELON INTERVIEWED.

Seated at his desk sat Alonzo Garcelon, Governor, a tall, thin man, with white hair and no whiskers. He looks more like the old school of statesmen than any Governor that Maine has had since Hannibal Hamlin went out of the State House. A cheerful fire blazed in the fireplace, the burning logs crackled merrily, and the gas jets emitted their blazes of light in the tastefully furnished room where the laws of Maine receive their binding force.

The Governor looked up from his mass of papers and his pile of law books and received his visitor cordially. Getting up out of the executive chair he seated himself in a rocking chair near the fire, and pleasantly chatted about the great excitement which had so rapidly spread over the State. After some preliminary talk I asked him what he thought would be the result of all the incendiary talk which had recently been made by the republicans. His reply was:—

"I think it will be detrimental to the commercial, social and religious relations and interests of our people. It will interrupt business and it will break up families, so that they can never be again cemented." Here he instanced the fact that two of the Council had been publicly insulted in places of business in their own towns. "The republican leaders," he said, "want to inaugurate a system of social ostracism against the Executive Department, but," he added, with a smile, "we can stand it."

NO RECKLESS AFTERTHOUGHTS.

"Governor, are you sorry for anything you have done or any step you have taken in this matter so far?" I asked.

"Not in the least," he replied, emphatically. "I

have done nothing that I am ashamed of, nothing that I regret in the slightest, nothing that I would not do over again to-morrow under the same circumstances, even with my knowledge of the effect produced on the community. Everything I have done has been according to the best construction I could find of our laws and of the constitution, and I am willing to leave it to the calm judgment of every loyal and disinterested man in Maine."

The Governor said this with an emphasis and a vehemence of utterance which could not fail to convince even the most sceptical that, however he might be mislead, ill-informed or badly advised, he was not wilfully or knowingly dishonest. Now the secretary was admitted and quitted.

"You see," he continued, "when these returns came in we were between a Scylla and a Charybdis. On the one hand was the republican party, watching every move and crying 'Fraud!' as early as a week after the election, and on the other our oath of office, the law and the constitution. About the middle of September several republican papers charged that a conspiracy had been concerted for the counting out of the republican candidates and the counting in of their opponents. Now, as a matter of fact, the counting of the votes was never mentioned to me by any member of the Council or by me to any member until the regular meeting held October 29, when a Committee on Elections was appointed. To that committee all the returns in the possession of the Secretary of State were handed over, except one being sealed, just as they came from the several towns and city clerks of the State. The one that was not sealed was that of Seagoport, in Waldo county, which had come to the Secretary unsealed. While the returns were in the custody of the committee I have the best of evidence that they were never seen by any living person excepting the members of the committee. The chairman held one-half of the key of the State House and the Secretary of State the other, and nobody else knew the combination. It was therefore impossible that any person could tamper with the returns, as is charged, and I am prepared to say that no alteration, erasure or emendation was made in any one return by the Council or anybody else during that time."

SMALL HOPES FOR THE FUSIONISTS.

But at best the chances of success on the fusion side hang by a very slender thread. As before stated, the House consists of 151 members. It takes seven-tenths to constitute a quorum. The Governor and Council have given certificates to seventy-eight members of the opposition. This leaves only a majority of two and there are eighteen of the fusionists whose election is impugned. The republicans are trying to induce some of their men to decline the honor conferred on them and already one has succumbed. This is Mr. Sprout, of Vassie, who has published a card denouncing the action of the Governor and Council, but he has not said that he would not take his seat. Should he do so and two more follow his example, there would be no quorum, supposing the republicans members should refuse to take any part in the proceedings. This, it is understood, is to be their policy, so that a deadlock will immediately ensue. Meanwhile the Senate would organize and elect a president, who would be the Governor of the State, the Council would overrule all the successors should be elected, but there would be no successors, and soon matters would come to a standstill.

THE FUSIONISTS' POSITION.

"Since November 17, when the Council met to determine the result, you know the history of events. The best legal talent in the State, both democratic and republican, has been consulted on every doubtful case, and we have written opinions on a few of them."

"I see it stated that you declared the law of 1877 unconstitutional for the purpose of changing the results. Is that true?"

"No, sir; it is not," the Governor replied. "We are willing to have our actions tested by the law as well as by previous statutes and precedents and the constitution. The law of 1877 provides that the record of the Legislature shall be made in open meeting as soon after the close of the polls as convenient, and that from this record shall be made up the returns for the Secretary of State. If any errors occur in transcribing the law further provides that they may be corrected so as to correspond with the record, but there is no law and no power by which the record can be amended. When, therefore, delegations came here asking to correct the returns by amended records, we declined to allow it. Wherever a clerical error was shown in transcribing from the record we were willing to comply strictly with the law and allowed the change to be made."

THE METHOD OF PROCEEDING.

"What was your method of proceeding?"

"We adopted a uniform course of action to cover all cases. One chart was the constitution. We asked not what a man's politics were when considering the vote cast by a town; we did not stop to calculate the results; we took the returns and examined it according to the laws which we were sworn to execute and let the result take care of itself."

THE PEOPLE AROUSED.

"It is true, as I see stated, that only republicans suffered by the strict interpretation of the law?"

"Not at all. I have learned that in a large number of cases democratic or greenback towns lost their majorities to the gain of the republicans. In Penobscot county alone eight towns were thrown out with democratic majorities. I have procured a list of losses in several of the Senatorial districts, which shows that the application of the strict rule injured both parties alike. In the First district George H. Wadsworth lost 283 votes, J. W. Garvin 195 and David A. Hill 6. In the Second district W. B. Field (democrat) lost 306; in the Third F. W. Reddon (republican) lost 75 and Charles Bankin (opposition) 185. In the Androscoggin district Jeremiah Dugley, Jr. (republican), lost 287 votes, and Charles Lane and George Tibbitts (opposition) 307 and 306 votes respectively. In the Eighth Amos F. Parlin (opposition) lost 244 votes. In the Ninth Andrew J. Chase (democrat) lost 106, and so on. Two opposition Senators in Androscoggin, it may be here remarked, who have been counted out, have served notice that they will contest the seats awarded to the republicans in these districts."

NO TROUBLE APPREHENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

"Do you expect any trouble over the organization of the Legislature?"

"No, sir; I do not expect any. I believe the sober sense of the people will triumph and that no disturbance will arise."

HAPPY MADE ANY PREPARATIONS FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF DISORDERS?

"I will take in time all precautions that the circumstances may warrant. I have been sworn to protect the lives and property of the people and to maintain order, and, of course, I shall do it to the best of my ability."

DO YOU INTEND TO CALL OUT THE MILITIA?

"I do not know that they will be needed, but if they should, of course I will not hesitate. However, I trust there will be no necessity for such a step."

HAVE YOU ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE LOYALTY OF THE MILITIA?

"None whatever. I regard them as loyal citizens, who will respect the constituted authorities and obey all orders properly issued."

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"I do not see how that can be done. The law is very explicit on that point. It provides that the Secretary of State shall, on or before the appointed day of assembly, furnish the clerks of the two branches of the previous Legislature with certified lists of the members who have received certificates and from this roll shall be called, and the clerk of each branch who calls the roll shall preside until the proper presiding officer shall have been chosen; and it is distinctly provided that no person can take part in the deliberations except he hold a certificate and his name appear on the roll. Without, therefore, a direct and palpable violation of the law they cannot organize a Legislature which shall have a quorum."

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A PROPOSED COMPROMISE.

A series of meetings will be held through the State to express confidence in the Governor and his actions. The greenback State Committee met to-day and passed a series of resolutions commending the firmness of the Executive and assuring him of their hearty support. Everything is quiet to-night. I have been informed that a proposition was made yesterday by a lawyer who is setting as counsel for a large number of republican constituents, the substance of which was to allow the republican Senators and Representatives holding certificates of election from the Governor and Council, with the fusion members, against whom there is no opposition, to organize both branches and then pass on the contents. This basis of compromise has not been fully considered by the democratic and greenback leaders yet, but it is not likely to be accepted. Let us examine what would be the result in case it was adopted. The Senate consists of thirty-one members and the House of 151. The fusionists have twelve men with certificates and the republicans eleven against whom there is nothing urged. This would leave eight contestants. But eight fusionists have contested the returns of the republican leaders, he said, "want to inaugurate a system of social ostracism against the Executive Department, but," he added, with a smile, "we can stand it."

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"None whatever. I regard them as loyal citizens, who will respect the constituted authorities and obey all orders properly issued."

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PROPOSITION TO SET UP A RIVAL LEGISLATURE?

"I do not see how that can be done. The law is very explicit on that point. It provides that the Secretary of State shall, on or before the appointed day of assembly, furnish the clerks of the two branches of the previous Legislature with certified lists of the members who have received certificates and from this roll shall be called, and the clerk of each branch who calls the roll shall preside until the proper presiding officer shall have been chosen; and it is distinctly provided that no person can take part in the deliberations except he hold a certificate and his name appear on the roll. Without, therefore, a direct and palpable violation of the law they cannot organize a Legislature which shall have a quorum."

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION.

The Governor assured me he felt confident that "when the American people know the whole case they would acquit him and his Council of doing anything with the slightest tinge of dishonesty about it."

A PROPOSED COMPROMISE.

A series of meetings will be held through the State to express confidence in the Governor and his actions. The greenback State Committee met to-day and passed a series of resolutions commending the firmness of the Executive and assuring him of their hearty support. Everything is quiet to-night. I have been informed that a proposition was made yesterday by a lawyer who is setting as counsel for a large number of republican constituents, the substance of which was to allow the republican Senators and Representatives holding certificates of election from the Governor and Council, with the fusion members, against whom there is no opposition, to organize both branches and then pass on the contents. This basis of compromise has not been fully considered by the democratic and greenback leaders yet, but it is not likely to be accepted. Let us examine what would be the result in case it was adopted. The Senate consists of thirty-one members and the House of 151. The fusionists have twelve men with certificates and the republicans eleven against whom there is nothing urged. This would leave eight contestants. But eight fusionists have contested the returns of the republican leaders, he said, "want to inaugurate a system of social ostracism against the Executive Department, but," he added, with a smile, "we can stand it."